

Chapter Four

SOME FAMOUS NATIVE AMERICANS

Squanto (1585*-1622)

If it weren't for Squanto, a Patuxet Indian, the Pilgrims of Plymouth may not have survived the winter or their Native neighbors. Squanto taught them how to plant corn and fish. He also served as an interpreter between the settlers and the Wampanoags, the Native neighbors.

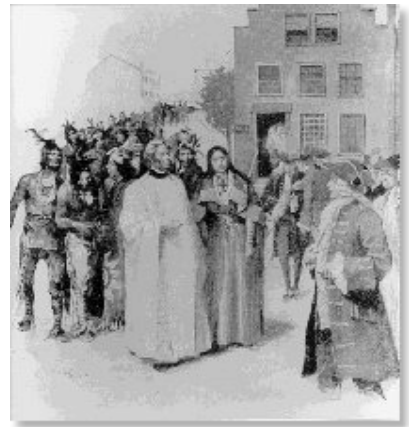


Pocahontas (1595-1617)

Though difficult to separate fact from fiction, the story goes that Pocahontas, the daughter of Algonquian chief Powhatan, saved Captain John Smith from being clubbed to death by her people. She befriended the Englishman, visiting him often while delivering messages in Jamestown for her father. Her marriage to tobacco planter John Rolfe in 1614 enhanced relations between the English and the Indians.

Mary Musgrove (1700- 1765)

In 1733, General James Edward Oglethorpe, the founder of the colony of Georgia, hired Musgrove, a half-breed Yamacraw Indian, as an interpreter. Because of her service, for which she received an annual salary of 100 pounds of sterling, Oglethorpe met little Indian resistance when settling the colony.



Polly Cooper (Circa. 1770*)

It was Oneida Chief Skenandoah who sent corn to George Washington's troops starving at Valley Forge that cold winter of 1777-78. It was his daughter, Polly Cooper, who stayed to prepare it. Washington gave Cooper a shawl to show his appreciation.

Sequoya (1760-1843)

Although illiterate himself, silversmith and blacksmith Sequoya perfected Cherokee with his "talking leaves." He was also active in tribal governmental affairs, traveling to Washington, D.C., several times.

Sacajawea (1790-1812 or 1884*)

Sacajawea joined Lewis and Clark on their renowned expedition. Some sources claim the Shoshone woman was hired as an interpreter; others say it was her husband, Toussaint Charbonneau, who was employed as an interpreter, and Sacajawea just tagged along.

Ely Samuel Parker (1828-1895)

A Seneca and militiaman, Parker wrote the terms of surrender signed in 1865 by Gen. Robert E. Lee at Appomattox. He was a favorite of Ulysses S. Grant. In 1868, Grant named Parker as Commissioner of Indian Affairs, making him the first non-Caucasian to fill the post and the first Native American to hold a federal office.

Geronimo (1829-1909)

After finding his wife, mother and children murdered by Spanish soldiers from Mexico, Geronimo sought vengeance against whites. He spent much of his life terrorizing Arizona settlers and eluding U.S. and Mexican troops. Although never a chief, Geronimo was a spiritual and intellectual leader to the Apache. He is remembered too in Native history as the one who led the last formal Indian fighting force against the U.S. government.

**Sitting Bull (1831-1890)**

Among his people, Teton Sioux Chief Sitting Bull was praised as a hunter, brave warrior and peacemaker. To the U.S. Army, he was an enemy to be reckoned with. He defeated General Cook in the Battle of the Rosebuds and participated in the defeat of General Custer in the Battle of Little Big Horn.

Crazy Horse (1849-1877)

To the Lakota, Crazy Horse was a living legend. He was a master horse stealer, taking his first before he was 13 years-old. He was a fierce warrior, participating in the sacking of Fort Phil Kearny in 1867 and joining forces with Sitting Bull in the battle of Little Big Horn in 1876. He is remembered most, however, for his independent spirit and his resolve to protect his people's way of life.

Black Elk (1863-1950)

Sioux medicine man Black Elk told his story to writer John Neihardt in 1931. The biography, *Black Elk speaks: being the life story of a holy man of the Oglala Sioux*, was first published in 1932. The book, translated into more than a dozen languages, has been read by millions.

Will Rogers (1879-1935)

Legendary cowboy, entertainer and philosopher, Rogers was part Cherokee, and proud of it.

**Jim Thorpe (1887-1953)**

Thorpe, a Sac and Fox Indian, was a man for all “sport” seasons. In 1912 he took the Olympic gold in the pentathlon and decathlon events. He led the Carlisle Indian School's football team to the national collegiate championship and the Canton Bulldogs football team to unofficial world championships in 1916, 1917 and 1919. Thorpe also played in major league baseball for six years. He has been dubbed by many as the world's greatest athlete.

Duke Kahanamoku (1890-1968)

Anybody who knows anything about surfing knows Hawaiian Kahanamoku. This actor and Olympic champion is remembered as the father of the sport.

Jay Silver Heels (1919-1980)

Jay Silver Heels, the son of a Mohawk chief, began his acting career as a stuntman in 1938. After his performance as Osceola Brother in *Key Largo*, Silver Heels' acting career took off, right into the role of Tonto in the TV series “The Lone Ranger.”

Otellie Loloma (1922-1993)

Loloma used clay and paints to make tangible the stories she heard while growing up in the Hopi village of Sipaulovi. Her award-winning work has been exhibited at museums across the nation, including the Museum of the American Indian and the Native American Center for the Living Arts.



Ben Nighthorse Campbell (1933-)

He's a Judo champion, an award-winning jewelry designer and a Northern Cheyenne chief. But Campbell probably owes his national fame to his tenure as U.S. Senator for Colorado. Elected in 1992 and 1998, Campbell has been a man for the people, the Indian people, and a leader in public lands and natural resources policy. During the 106th Congress, he touted having more free-standing Senate legislation passed into law than any other member of Congress.

N. Scott Momaday (1934-)

A member of the Kiowa Nation, Momaday calls himself “the man made of words.” In 1969, his first novel, *House Made of Dawn*, won him a Pulitzer Prize in fiction, making him the first Native American to win the coveted literary award. In 1966 and 1967, Momaday received a Guggenheim Fellowship.

Adda E. Deer (1935-)

In the early 1970s, Deer's efforts -- coalition building and lobbying -- saved her tribe, the Menomonee, from termination during federal efforts to eliminate tribal governments. President Clinton nominated her for the seat of Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, and Congress confirmed the appointment in July of 1993. Deer became the first woman to hold the office.

Russell Means (1939-)

Born on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, Means has devoted much of his life to fighting for Indian rights. In the 1960s, he was the first national director of the American Indian Movement. Means is also an accomplished actor, appearing in TV and big-screen movies, such as *Last of the Mohicans* and *Natural Born Killers*. In 2001, he moved into politics, receiving a nomination for the 2002 New Mexico governorship.

Buffy Saint-Marie (1941-)

Cree-born Sainte-Marie has won national and international acclaim for her music. She wrote the Oscar winning “Up Where We Belong,” the theme song from *An Officer and a Gentleman*. In 1995, the Canadian Recording Industry Association inducted her into the JUNO Hall of Fame. Sainte-Marie has also received recognition for her Cradleboard Teaching Project, which brought her the Louis T. Delgado Award as 1997 Native American Philanthropist of the Year.



The Navajo Code Talkers (1942-1945)

It made sense to the U.S. military to use a coded version of the Navajo language to relay intelligence — American and enemy movements — during World War II. Few outside of the Navajo reservation understood the language, the vocabulary, unique syntax and the nasal and deep-throated intonations. The Japanese never cracked it. The first 29

Navajos recruited and trained at Camp Pendleton in 1942 developed a Navajo code dictionary, including 450 military terms that up until then never existed in the language. Through the course of the war, between 375 to 420 Navajo would serve as code talkers on the battlefield. Though the Navajo are the most famous, men from other tribes, including the Comanche and the Choctaw, were also asked to serve as code talkers during World War I and II.

Jimi Hendrix (1942-1970)

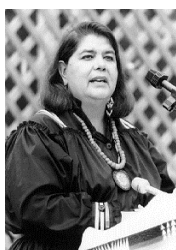
Of Cherokee descent, Johnny Allen “Jimi” Hendrix was one of the greatest guitarists of all time.

Rod Curl (1943-)

Curl, part Winto Indian, became the first Native American to win on the PGA Tour when he captured the Colonial National Invitation Tournament in 1974. Today, Curl competes in the Senior PGA circuit and teaches golf.

Rita Coolidge (1944-)

Part Cherokee, Coolidge entered the music scene in the mid 1960s and reached stardom in the early 1970s. Some of her greatest hits were revivals, such as Jackie Wilson’s “Higher and Higher,” released in 1977, and the Temptations’ “The Way You Do The Things You Do,” released in 1978.



Wilma Mankiller (1945-) In 1987, Mankiller was elected principal chief of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, a tribe 140,000 members strong. She was the first woman in modern history to lead a major tribe.

Anna Mae Aquash (1945-1976)

Aquash, a Micmac Indian, dedicated most of her 31 years of life to fighting for Native American rights. She participated in the 1972 march in Washington D.C., known as the “Trail of Broken Treaties,” and in the 1973 protest at the site of the Wounded Knee massacre. But it was death that immortalized Aquash. In 1976, her body was found on a Lakota ranch. An initial autopsy revealed that she had died from exposure. A second, ordered by her family, found a bullet hole at the base of her skull. Her murder remains unsolved.

Cher (1946-)

An unforgettable voice, a long-running TV show and a best-actress Oscar turned this Cherokee woman into a Hollywood icon.

Wes Studi (1947-)

Studi plays one good bad guy. Proof is in this Cherokee actor's performances as Magua in *Last of the Mohicans* and the "toughest" Pawnee in *Dances With Wolves*.

Graham Greene (1952-)

Graham Greene, a full-blooded Oneida from Ontario, never intended on becoming an actor. That was nearly three dozen movies ago. Some of the famous films Greene has acted in include *Dances With Wolves*, *The Last of His Tribe*, *Die Hard With a Vengeance* and *The Green Mile*.

Notah Begay (1973-)

Begay, a Navajo/Isleta Pueblo, is the only full-blooded Indian golfer to participate in the PGA Tour, earning more than \$1 million in 1999.

* Exact date is not available.